

they have struggled to recoup their losses. This bill provides important protections to individuals and small businesses, and I support its passage.

CONGRATULATING ASU-SEARCY  
ON 50 YEARS

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Arkansas State University-Beebe's Searcy Campus on its 50th anniversary.

Formerly Foothills Vocational Technical School, the Searcy campus opened in 1966 with 17 employees.

Dedicated in 1967 by Governor Winthrop Rockefeller, the focus of the campus was to provide its students with a skilled trade that would prepare them to enter the workforce upon graduation.

In 2003, Foothills Technical Institute merged with ASU-Beebe, forming its second technical campus.

Today, the Searcy campus serves both traditional and non-traditional students earning their GEDs, technical certificates, or associate degrees, providing many students with the skills, education, and training necessary to obtain employment and start a career.

I would like to extend my congratulations to ASU-Beebe's Searcy campus and wish it much continued success for generations to come.

THE MEDIGAP CONSUMER  
PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, Medigap plans currently provide supplemental coverage to approximately 11 million Medicare beneficiaries. However, many of the laws governing the Medigap market have remained largely unchanged since 1990. In particular, consumer protections are inadequate, leaving many beneficiaries subject to discriminatory practices by issuers, lacking sufficient information about their plan options, and often enrolled in lower quality coverage.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Medigap Consumer Protection Act. This important legislation will make a number of reforms to the Medigap market that will strengthen the health security of millions of Americans and significantly improve the beneficiary experience.

Most importantly, this bill ends discriminatory treatment of Medicare beneficiaries by extending guaranteed issue rights to the entire Medigap-eligible population.

Currently, federal law provides limited guaranteed issue rights to Medicare beneficiaries. As a result, issuers in many states are permitted to deny consumers access to Medigap policies based on preexisting conditions. This creates substantial barriers to coverage, particularly for individuals who qualify for Medicare due to disability or End-Stage Renal Dis-

ease. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, only 2 percent of beneficiaries who are under 65 and living with a disability are enrolled in a Medigap policy, and 21 percent have no supplemental coverage at all.

The Medigap Consumer Protection Act closes the holes in federal law that permit discriminatory treatment of consumers by extending guaranteed issue rights to the entire Medicare population, including beneficiaries who qualify for Medicare due to disability or End-Stage Renal Disease.

It also will protect a number of other populations, including beneficiaries who have enrolled in Medicare Advantage for more than one year and wish to switch back to traditional Medicare; dual eligibles who either lose their Medicaid coverage or who are only Medicaid-eligible with a Share of Cost; and individuals enrolled in COBRA coverage who wish to switch into Medicare.

The bill also makes a number of reforms that will strengthen access to quality plans and improve the beneficiary experience.

It calls on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to review loss ratio standards for Medigap plans and submit recommendations to the Secretary to update federal standards.

It reforms how issuers price their products by calling on the NAIC to update its Model Regulations to prohibit pricing discrimination based on age, and by requiring Medigap issuers to set premiums by county.

It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the Medicare Plan Finder website to increase consumer access to information regarding their coverage options through Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage, and Part D. The public will be afforded opportunities to comment on and improve the presentation of this information.

It restores access to the most popular Medigap plan options, which under current law are scheduled to be eliminated for beneficiaries who become eligible for Medicare beginning in 2020 or later.

Finally, it provides consumers with additional information about potential conflicts of interest by requiring issuers to disclose payments made to brokers, agents, and other third parties selling Medigap policies. These disclosures will be available to consumers through the Open Payments Database maintained by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare beneficiaries deserve access to high-quality Medigap coverage. The reforms made by the Medigap Consumer Protection Act will correct many of the problems that continue to exist in the market, including discrimination by issuers and a lack of information available to consumers. These reforms are long overdue, and I urge my colleagues to move to enact this bill without delay.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE LA PORTE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize La Porte Independent School District,

which celebrates its 100th Anniversary on October 1, 2016.

In 1916, only 19 years after the first classroom opened in La Porte, the Independent School District was established to provide quality education to students from Lomax to Morgan's Point. These first students had the privilege of choosing both the District's mascot and colors—the bulldog, and the orange and white that the students of La Porte rally around to this day.

Over 7,000 students from across La Porte began their school year within the Independent School District just weeks ago, and will continue a proud legacy of learning and achievement that has stood for 100 years.

It is my distinct honor to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of La Porte ISD, and their enduring commitment to every student's success. Go Bulldogs.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD GEIGER  
FOR HIS LIFELONG SERVICE  
AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Richard Geiger, a champion for the environment. Mr. Geiger is widely recognized as one of the most committed advocates for the protection and stewardship of our natural resources in the Puget Sound region.

A graduate of Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, Rich began his career by serving our country in the 82nd Airborne Division as an air defense officer. After serving for 13 years, during which time he was stationed in North Korea and Germany, he continued that commitment to service by dedicating his civilian career to protecting the environment.

First working for Mason County Public Works, and then for the last 15 years as a district officer at the Mason Conservation District, Rich helped to develop a wide range of small- and large-scale efforts to protect natural resources. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment during his tenure with the Conservation District was the leadership he provided on the development and implementation of the Skokomish River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project, a critical and comprehensive effort to restore the river and surrounding waters in Puget Sound that encompassed more than 50 different individual restoration projects.

Mr. Speaker, Richard was not only an environmental advocate and steward, he was also a leader in the community. He excelled at fostering collaboration and consensus among diverse community stakeholders, including private landowners, businesses, Native American Tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies, to achieve common goals.

Richard's lifetime of service, stewardship, care, and leadership all contributed to a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant community in Puget Sound. The contributions of Mr. Geiger embody the values that make our community and our country a great place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I stand on the House floor today to honor the life of Mr. Geiger and to extend my condolences to those who he is survived by. Our lives are enhanced by having known him, and he will truly be missed.

## HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. ALMA S. ADAMS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, in my District—North Carolina's 12th Congressional District—many people in my community struggle to consistently put food on the table.

According to Feeding America, Mecklenburg County has over 165,000 individuals that are considered food insecure, including over 49,000 children.

Overall, the 12th district ranks 11th in the nation and 2nd in the state for the most food insecure congressional districts.

Over the past year, the single biggest food insecurity issue that constituents share with my office is that SNAP benefits are not enough to help seniors and families in need put food on the table through the end of the month.

For this reason, in May of this year, I introduced H.R. 5215, the Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2016.

This legislation strengthens the SNAP program for seniors, families, and individuals looking for work.

This legislation has been endorsed by Feeding American, FRAC, Mazon, and the National Council on Aging.

As we observe Hunger Action Month, I would encourage all members to cosponsor this important piece of legislation to help those that are hungry in their community put food on the table each month.

RECOGNIZING THE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY ARISTOCRAT OF BANDS MARCHING BAND AND THE SOPHISTICATED LADIES MAJORETTES FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women of the Tennessee State University (TSU) Aristocrat of Bands marching band and the Sophisticated Ladies majorettes for their performance at the White House reception for the grand opening ceremony of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. TSU has an over 100-year-long history as a historically black university and, as the first historically black university band to appear on national television and the first to march in an Inaugural Parade for President John F. Kennedy, it was fitting for the Aristocrat of Bands to perform in Washington, DC during this historic event in our nation's history.

The TSU Aristocrat of Bands began in 1946 as a 100-piece ensemble. Since that time, the band has become world-renowned for its performances across the country. During the late 1940s, the marching band performed twice in

Washington, DC in the Washington Classic, a national competition for top historical black colleges and universities. Under the direction of Frank T. Greer, the marching band became the first historically black university band to appear on television when it performed during the half-time show of a Chicago Bears and Los Angeles Rams football game. The band went on to perform during nine half-time shows between 1956 and 1978, including the New York Giants vs. the Chicago Bears National Championship in 1963 at Wrigley Field.

Between 1979 and 2014, the band was directed by Edward L. Graves—a former Aristocrat under Director Greer who marched during the 1961 inauguration of President Kennedy. Under his tutelage, the band continued to perform for half-time shows, had a spot in the 1981 CBS television movie *The Concrete Cowboy*, recorded for television ads and traveled abroad to perform in Tokyo, Japan. In 1993, the Aristocrat of Bands returned to Washington, DC to march in President Bill Clinton's Inaugural Parade.

The Aristocrat of Bands performed several songs for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture opening reception, including *No Problems* by Chance the Rapper, *Signed Sealed Delivered I'm Yours* by Stevie Wonder, *Gin and Juice* by Snoop Dogg and TSU's fight song, *I'm So Proud*. The Aristocrat of Bands and the Sophisticated Ladies represented TSU well and, like TSU students who are proud of their school and marching band, I was proud to watch the band perform on the South Lawn of the White House. I congratulate Director Dr. Reginald McDonald, the men and women of the Aristocrat of Bands, and the Sophisticated Ladies for being selected for this honor and putting on a performance worthy of the school's legacy.

TRIBUTE TO BP AGENT MANUEL  
"MANNY" ALVAREZ

**HON. MARTHA MCSALLY**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Border Patrol Agent Manuel "Manny" Alvarez.

Agent Alvarez entered duty as a member of the Border Patrol Academy Class of 557 on July 17, 2003. He was a dedicated agent who strove to be his best each time he put on the uniform.

Agent Alvarez dutifully served our country in the Border Patrol for 13 years. During that time he became well known for his commitment to excellence, warm personality, and humble demeanor. He was a man who looked out for his fellow agents and did what was necessary to ensure the optimal performance of his team. He was always willing to take time to teach or train newer agents or share what he had learned.

On August 11, 2016 Agent Alvarez was killed while on duty on the Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation just south of Sells, Arizona. Even after over a decade of service, Manny's love and drive for his work was as strong as the day he entered the Border Patrol.

Agent Alvarez was only 37 at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Jeanine, and

four children, Analysis, Yaslyne, Julian, and Gabriel, and was deeply committed to his family. He also was an avid runner and had a natural talent for drawing.

There's no doubt that such a tragic loss is felt across our entire community and by the Border Patrol Agency to which he gave so much. On behalf of Southern Arizonans, I thank Agent Alvarez for his service to keep our country and communities safe, and I offer my sincere condolences to his family and friends on the loss of one of our community's finest.

## CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saint Paul, Minnesota's Central High School on its 150th anniversary. Dedicated faculty and staff of Central have been educating and inspiring generations of Minnesota's future leaders since it was founded in 1866 as the first public high school in our state. As the largest public high school in Minnesota, Central is well-known not only for its rich history and traditions, but also for its commitment to academic excellence, diversity and inclusion.

Saint Paul Central High School was established in response to student-driven demand for a high school in Minnesota, to allow students to continue their education beyond elementary school. Since then, this commitment to students has remained a core part of Central's mission and identity. The first graduating class of Saint Paul Central High School consisted of two students who each received a hand-printed sheepskin diploma in 1870. As the years went on, the school began to grow, moving to a new space in 1872 and again in 1883. In 1912, it moved to a new location, where it stands today, and adopted the Minuteman as its mascot in recognition of its address on Lexington Avenue.

Throughout the years, many students who walked the halls of Central High School would go on to inspire, connect, and change our community and world. It has been the alma mater to the likes of Amelia Earhart, the first woman to pilot a trans-Atlantic flight, Charles M. Schulz, the creator of the beloved Peanuts gang, and Jawed Karim, co-creator of YouTube.

Today's Central High School students are no less impressive. Recent graduates have gone on to earn Rhodes Scholarships and win Olympic medals. Students come from racially and socioeconomically diverse backgrounds, and are supported by a dedicated community of teachers, parents, and friends. Their hard work, innovative thinking, and close community relationships lead to success, with the vast majority of students going on to attend college. By offering both International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses in addition to a plethora of extracurricular activities, it is little wonder that Central has earned rankings on "Best High School" lists and Blue Ribbon awards from the U.S. Department of Education. As a result, it has become widely recognized as a model for quality public education.